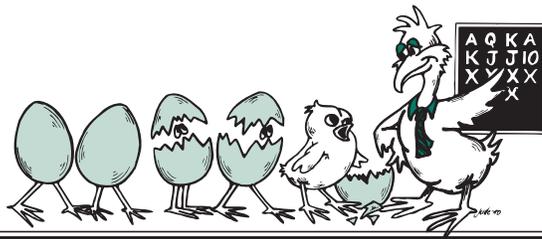


THE BRIDGE TEACHER



Hooray for Continuing Education!

by Julie Greenberg, ACBL Director of Education

This summer I had an opportunity to treat myself to the "full" ABTA Convention. The American Bridge Teachers group meets prior to the Summer NABC each year at the NABC site. This was a great experience for me, and I'd like to tell you about it.

The ABTA seminar preceded the start of the convention (Tuesday afternoon). There was a panel of teachers to answer questions and some special speakers. This year some very talented and popular teachers, including Harry Lampert and Audrey Grant, were featured. During the time the presenters and attendees introduced themselves, there were teaching tips and good ideas flowing so fast I could hardly get them all written down. What I captured are a lot of gems. (See page 3).

The official convention started on Wednesday afternoon and went through Friday noon. At registration, everyone was given a packet of materials — books, gifts, etc. — that was very impressive. There were a variety of outstanding speakers throughout the program who were either experienced teachers with great teaching tips, expert players there to help the attendees with their own bridge games, or others who introduced new products and teaching materials.

But it wasn't all business! At each convention, there is an optional activity on Wednesday night. The activities chairmen, Carol Kaufman and Rhoda Cohen, did an outstanding job in Washington. They arranged for a deluxe private bus tour of the city narrated by the best tour guide I've ever run into. She knew so many interesting stories and facts, she had us sitting on the edge of our chairs all evening. We had several planned stops — the new FDR Memorial (magnificent at night), the beautiful refurbished Union Station for dinner, the new Korean War Memorial (eerie and awesome in the evening) with a short walk to

the Lincoln Memorial and the Viet Nam Wall. It was a trip we never could have planned for ourselves and an opportunity to socialize and enjoy each other's company. A great evening.

Speaking of the social side of the convention . . . Each morning everyone met for a continental breakfast and a chance to chat — a good way to get started. On Thursday evening, we all dressed up and attended the ABTA banquet . . . lots of awards, tributes, and a great dinner. As a special perk, ACBL arranged for the teachers attending the ABTA banquet to sit in on the presentations at the Hall of Fame dinner. That was a nice treat since I really didn't want to miss

continued on page 8



Apples to . . .

(In our first issue, we started a tradition of giving "apples" for extraordinary accomplishments. Here we go again . . .)

MARTI RONEMUS — for the unique bridge experience — "It's 1931 Again" — she created for her players. See pages 4 and 5 for details.

DELMA MURRAY — for going the extra mile to send a picture of herself in her fabulous red teacher jacket embellished with her teacher patch.

BETTY STARZEC — for the outstanding seminar on "Teaching Online" that she created. Don't miss it at the NABCs.

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FALL
2002

The Bridge Teachers Bookshelf



Every year, the American Bridge Teachers' Association (ABTA) selects the teachers' bridge book of the year from among books published during the preceding 12 months. The 2002 award was presented at the Washington DC summer convention to an entire series of books — *The Bridge Technique Series* by David Bird and Marc Smith.

This series is composed of 12 paperback books

(approximately 64 pages each) and deals with a variety of topics on play: *Entry Management, Tricks with Trumps, Safety Plays, Eliminations and Throw-Ins, Deceptive Card Play, Planning in Suit Contracts, Planning in Notrump Contracts, Defensive Signaling, Squeezes Made Simple, Planning in Defense, Reading the Cards, and Tricks with Finesses*. As you see from the titles, some of these topics would be appropriate for your students and some of them might even be helpful to you.

There are many good ideas for lessons on play and defense as well as some hands you might wish to incorporate into your lessons. If your students are serious about improving their play, you can use a single book as the text for an entire mini-course. Quizzes at the end of each chapter can be used for classroom discussion or as homework. If you doubt that you could base an entire course on a book of only 64 pages, consider a partial list of topics covered in the final segment of the series, *Tricks with Finesses*: entries; choosing the right type of finesse; the ruffing finesse; the double finesse; restricted choice;

combining finesses and break chances; choosing which finesse to take; the two-way finesse; avoiding finesses; enlisting the defenders' help; and defending against a finesse. Supplement with extra hands for classroom practice and you'll have a great intermediate to advanced level course.

Each book can be ordered from ACBL's Bridge Source for a member price of \$5.36 each (regular \$5.95). At that price, how can you go wrong? To order, call 1 (800) 264-2743 or purchase online at www.acbl.org.



A brand-new publication and a candidate that will surely be examined for next year's award is *25 Steps to Learning 2/1* by Paul Thurston, a Canadian bridge journalist and teacher. Published by Masterpoint Press, this book is written in the easy-to-read style of Barbara Seagram's two popular books, *25 Ways to Compete in the Bidding* and *25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know*.

While this book is designed to get the reader playing 2/1, it also provides a lot of information on good sound bidding as the topics move from opening bid requirements to major-suit openings and responses (including 1NT forcing, "the magical ninth trump," Jacoby 2NT, and Bergen raises), and on to light opening bids and Drury followed by minor-suit openings and responses and fourth suit forcing, weak jump shifts, new minor forcing and reverses, and concluding with a discussion of competitive bidding. Each chapter concludes with exercises to reinforce the material.

The only downside for teachers is that there are no complete deals to use in a course on 2/1. However, many of the exercises show opener's and responder's hands to be bid and the teacher could fill in the remaining cards to provide deals for classroom play. If you are thinking of a course on 2/1 for your advanced students, I strongly suggest making this clearly written book your text.

This book can be purchased for the member price of \$14.36 from the ACBL's Bridge Source either online at www.acbl.org or through the ACBL Sales Department by calling 1 (800) 264-2743.

Visit our web site www.acbl.org

Tips from Teachers - At the ABTA Convention

TEACHING TIPS —

Leslie Shafer uses gems and cars to help her students learn the value of hands (Minimum, Medium, Maximum = Amethyst, Ruby, Diamond).

Ted Applegate, when teaching defense, tells his students to rearrange their hands and put the cards in the suit bid by an opponent closer to that opponent.

Norma Sands teaches "Play the high card from the short hand first" by turning that phrase into a chant. It will help jolt the student's memory.

Audrey Grant tells her students that if their upper body is touching the table, their cards can be seen by the other players.

Carol Griffin teaches doubles with this saying, "Doubles are like a Miss America pageant — you gotta have shape."

Peggy Tatro helps her students meet each other and learn about duplicate by moving them periodically (e.g., move E-W up a table or move N-S down a table to mix it up).

Judi Shulman reminds us that teachers are in the entertainment business. If you don't get your students to laugh at least five times, they won't be back the next week.

Barbara Seagram uses this reminder when teaching leads. It's a matter of Tops and Bottoms. Lead Top of nothing and Bottom from something.

PUBLICITY TIPS —

Mary Jane von Moss promotes her lessons with the saying, "Take my class. It stimulates the brain and stalls Alzheimer's for six months."

Carol Kaufman promotes her cruise ship lessons with BIFF — Bridge Is For Fun.

Delma Murray advertises by wearing a red jacket with her ACBL Accredited Teacher patch. It is attractive and attention getting. (If you didn't get a patch and want one, send a student list to Dana Norton's attention.)

CLUB MANGER TIP —

Marti Ronemus had a good idea for a series of special club games. Get the cooks in your club to provide refreshments for a game by serving their specialty and name the game after them (e.g., Ellen's Coffee Cake game). You pay for the cook's supplies and collect the recipes to make a booklet for the holidays.

ICE BREAKERS — *Dennis Scott:*

Fold Your Hands: Have your students fold their hands and place them on the table. If they do this with the right thumb up, they are creative. If they fold their hands with the left thumb up, they are organized.



Bidding Boxes for Bridge Classes *by Dee Berry*

The majority of my students probably never will play duplicate bridge, yet I find using bidding boxes an invaluable teaching aid for beginning classes through advanced.

What value is there for the students at all levels?

- 1) *Continued visual reinforcements.*
"Seeing" the bids and having them remain visible throughout the auction aids students' memories.
- 2) *No need for constant reviews of the bidding.* Every bid is visible throughout the auction. I let my beginners keep the final bid exposed throughout the play. (Declarers, as well as defenders, have been known to forget the contract.)
- 3) *No need to ask "Whose bid is it?"*
- 4) *A considerably diminished noise level in a room full of students.* If tables are playing the same deal, the bidding is not "overheard." If they are playing different deals, the auctions from other tables are

not distracting.

Although a few are always reluctant to try bidding boxes, I've never had anyone drop a class because we used them, and almost always, I receive enthusiastic comments after my students use the bidding boxes a few times.

My beginning classes are the most excited and supportive! In fact, my class of 7- to 11-year olds tells me it makes them feel very "grown up" to use bidding boxes just like their duplicate-playing parents.

The clubs where I teach have been more than willing to order bidding boxes at their expense; but I have four sets of my own for private classes. For those of you who teach at duplicate clubs, there should be no problem using the club's boxes.

If you aren't using bidding boxes now in your classroom, try them. You'll probably love them as much as I do!

BRIDGE WEEK IN ...

The week of January 6 to 12, 2003 has been set aside as the time for ACBL clubs throughout North America to celebrate the game of bridge.

Why January 6 to 12? The Culbertson-Lenz match, which helped to make bridge a national pastime, was held 71 years ago on that date. That week was a prime time for bridge, and Bridge is *still* a prime time game.

The goal of this week-long celebration is to spread the word that bridge is the best leisure-time activity in the world! ACBL would like to use this celebration as a membership drive and will offer participating clubs and their players the opportunity to win prizes and awards.

Clubs can participate by hosting one or more of the following:

1. A Bridge Week Party.
2. Bridge Week Member-Guest games.
3. Bridge Week Pro-Am games.
4. A Bridge Week Marathon.

Those of you whose teaching programs are affiliated with clubs and those of you who are club managers/directors could use Bridge Week as a tool to get your students playing at the club and eager to be members of the ACBL.

Full details can be found at ACBL's website and you can sign up there. All club managers were mailed a copy of the Bridge Week brochure in the September mailing and more information can be found in the October issue of *The Bridge Bulletin*.



***It promises to be an exciting week.
Plan now to join the fun!***

MAGAZINE and MEMBERSHIP ALERT!

At the Washington D.C. Board Meetings, Management presented a sample upgraded *Bridge Bulletin* which was enthusiastically received. Starting in January of 2003, *The ACBL Bridge Bulletin* will be a four-color process, 8 x 10 magazine with *Play Bridge* as a regular monthly insert. We are very excited about this new product and know your students will love it, too.

With the new magazine as an added incentive, don't forget to try to get your students to join ACBL before the end of the year. December 31, 2002 is the last day to take advantage of the multiple year discounts. A one-year membership is \$24; a two-year membership is \$48; and a three-year membership is \$72. What a great deal!

... NORTH AMERICA

SPICE IT UP WITH A BRIDGE WEEK PARTY

If you are a teacher running a Bridge Plus+ or Pupil Game or a teacher who owns a bridge club, you can make one of your games a festive occasion — and celebrate Bridge Week 2003 during the week of January 6 to 12 — by turning it into a Culbertson–Lenz Party. The club hosting the best party (send pictures and a description to BridgeWeek@acbl.org) will win a \$100 gift certificate to “The Bridge Source” catalog and will be featured in *The Bridge Bulletin*.

Need some ideas? Here’s one that was featured in the January issue of the *Bulletin*. **Can you top this? That’s the Challenge!**

At the Bridge Boardroom in York PA, Marti Ronemus combined a fund-raiser for the Salvation Army Fund for Disaster Relief with a reenactment of the 1931 Culbertson–Lenz bridge match.

“Our location wasn’t available for either date of the Red, White, & Blue Bridge Bash, but we still wanted to help. So our “It’s 1931 Again” bridge party was born. The original Culbertson–Lenz match was for charity, too. It was indeed fate.”

Ronemus put together a booklet of deals from the match along with bidding diagrams and cartoons commenting on the play.

The game was limited to 12 tables. Players dressed in Thirties’ costumes and were treated to dinner, which featured recipes by Josephine Culbertson. The main course: roast pork loin with apricots and apples, scalloped potatoes, and Brussels sprouts with browned lemon butter. Dessert was warm rice pudding served with brandied whipped cream.

George Lenkler of the Salvation Army blessed the meal and attended the dinner. The event raised \$750 for the Disaster Fund.



Beverly Rhodes and Darlene Kane at the Bridge Boardroom party.

THE BRIDGE MATCH OF THE CENTURY

By Marti Ronemus

It was a story that had everything but a murder! Ely (E-LEE) and Josephine Culbertson, young darlings of society, pitted against the all-powerful “Bridge Headquarters” Official System, a blood feud, money. How did it all start? Ely Culbertson, was a go-getter and a promoter, and he was determined to be “The Authority of the Bridge World.” The establishment resisted. Interestingly, the Establishment was actually the heads of 12 different systems who were so determined to stop that whippersnapper Culbertson that they put aside their individual differences and formed “Bridge Headquarters.” Some of them hadn’t spoken in years until this.



Culbertson put it all on the line when he challenged Bridge Headquarters to a 150-rubber match . . . a total of 895 deals were played. As you can imagine, getting the details ironed out was worthy of United Nations peacekeeping missions.

The match began at the Hotel Chatham and then moved to the Waldorf — such glamorous venues!

Sidney Lenz elected to play 75% of the rubbers with Oswald Jacoby. Ely chose his wife, Josephine. Wouldn’t you have loved to be at some of the postmortems?

The match got tremendous press coverage. Culbertson had promoted it well — the struggle of a young, loving, married couple against the forces of adversity. It was a topic of conversation at every bridge table long before it started. Stories about the match were on the front pages of newspapers all over America during December 1931 to January 1932.

The Culbertson Team soundly defeated “Bridge Headquarters” and succeeded in making Ely Culbertson the foremost authority on contract bridge. Bridge became even more popular than it already was.

STAR TEACHER'S



BESSIE FAVELL, London ON — Bessie immigrated to Canada 1949 from Glasgow, Scotland. She was introduced to bridge in her early twenties. Bessie worked as a counselor to the hearing impaired for 19 years. While she was employed as a counselor she introduced some of her students to *The Club Series*. She has taught several classes at Roberts School for the Hearing Impaired and Montcalm High School. She says she is having the time of her life! The students keep her young at heart.

TIP: Bessie plays bridge as often as possible to keep her mind alert, and she swims and lifts weights to keep her body fit.



BETTY PEARL, Owings Mills MD — Betty first took bridge lessons in the mid 80's. After winning her first trophy at a tournament, she fell in love with bridge and was hooked. Betty achieved the rank of Life Master, became a qualified bridge director and an accredited bridge teacher, and is busy teaching privately and holding classes regularly at the Jewish Community Center of Baltimore. She is active in the Maryland Bridge Association unit (Board of Directors, Treasurer) and is a past president of the Women's Bridge League of MD. Married with three adult children and six grandchildren, Betty is very active in several local philanthropic organizations. She considers it a "labor of love" to teach her students duplicate-style and makes sure they enjoy the social aspect of the game while they practice. Betty is dedicated to introducing them to duplicate when they are ready.

TIP: Betty tells her students that playing bridge keeps them mentally sharp and helps them make great social contacts. She tells them upscale jokes to relieve any tension so that they always leave her class with a smile on their faces.



WILAMET (WILLI) WILLIAMS, Roseville CA — Willi began teaching bridge on a serious level in 1997 after she and her husband Dick moved to the Roseville Retirement Village in Sun City. Willi lived in Southern California for 30 plus years and played lots of duplicate and social bridge. She became a Life Master in 1997 and attended various seminars held in the Northern California area on methods of teaching bridge. Since Willi and her husband arrived in Roseville, they have taught beginning bridge to an estimated 200 residents and made numerous friendships in the process. Her teaching philosophy is to demonstrate that playing bridge is fun and is a great way to interact socially with neighbors.

TIP: Willi stresses the importance of the fundamentals of bidding and play and uses both Audrey Grant and Easybridge! techniques and materials.

★ STAR TEACHER PROGRAM ★

Send the Education Department a list of your students from a *Club (Bidding)*, *Diamond (Play of the Hand)*, *Heart (Defense)*, *Spade (Commonly Used Conventions)*, or *Notrump (More Commonly Used Conventions)* class and begin earning perks. When you send in your first list, we will send you an ACBL Accredited Teacher patch. (See Delma's picture in her teacher jacket with the patch on page 3.)

When you have taught 100 or more students in one of the five ACBL courses, you become a Star Teacher. There are one-, two-, three-, four-, and five-star teachers. At that point, you will receive your attractive Star Teacher pin, get a Star beside your name on the Internet listing at ACBL's website, and you will be eligible for additional discounts on the ACBL Bridge Series texts.

Send in a list today!

Cruise Seminar Update - May 2002

For a long time, it's been possible to say that "Do you play Stayman?" is the benchmark question to ask of would-be students and players aboard cruise ships. The typical social bridge player used no conventions, and we advised that classes should avoid conventions — or even the idea that 1♥-3♥ is a limit raise. While most of the willing duplicate players would at least play Stayman and transfers, we've always counseled real care in pairing up strangers because of this real gap between competitive and social players.

That gap is closing. On long cruise assignments in the past year (three 10-day cruises, two 12-day cruises), I have seen a real change in the profile of the students and players aboard. Asked to provide beginner level and intermediate lessons by one Cruise Director, I found that even the beginners had heard there were conventions and were curious about their utility. The Intermediates were familiar with weak twos and transfers and were asking for information about negative doubles and four suit transfers. What a difference!

I also found that the cruise community was somewhat changed. On a trip along the Eastern seaboard from Montreal to Nassau, we had almost as many Brits and Aussies as Americans. Those who learned their bridge in the UK play Acol, a system using weak no trump openings (11 or 12 to 14); all opening bids promise four-card suits. A 2♦ opening with multiple possible meanings is also popular in England and has in the past year or two become the rage in Australia. If you want to provide good service to cruise clients these days, you can't depend on knowing only modern Standard American. You should at least know the general principles of Acol, and you should also know at least the outlines of Precision and two over one. You will have to be able to adapt your lectures and your answers to class questions to the parameters of these other well-known systems.

Rather than deal with opening the bidding in lectures aboard ship, I try to concentrate on defensive bidding and on play issues. Many players have never really thought about overcalls, takeout doubles and responses, or preempts, responding to and bidding over preempts, or about opening leads or defensive carding. Without getting into the relative merits of DONT, Hamilton/Cappelletti and Hello or Meckwell, you can also talk about the merits of competing in NT auctions, and especially about handling interference in 1NT-2X-? situations. I try to deal with questions of bridge logic and reasoning as

much as possible, rather than emphasizing any particular convention. And always, always, I make it clear that treatments are a matter of partnership choice and agreement, regardless of what is currently popular. Even when you believe that some

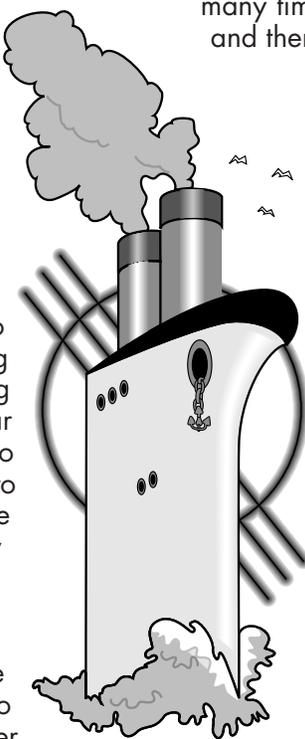
approach really doesn't work (my own view of step responses to 2♣ openings), you should stress what might work better more than what is wrong: "Most of the time, I think 2♦ works better. I've tried steps and don't find they work because so often the stronger hand ends up being the dummy. I like to use 2♦ waiting unless I have a really urgent message for partner. I wouldn't respond 2♥ or 2♠ without a five card suit headed by the A-Q or K-Q. So many times partner's rebid after a 2♣ opening is 2NT, and then I can still use Stayman and transfers."

On the second cruise series, I taught absolute beginners. I used a combination of the opening lesson from Easybridge!, Mini-Bridge, and the "cards on the table" method popularized in the Audrey Grant books, along with the excellent handouts which broker Gerry Fox provides for all lecturers he places on cruise ships. With five sessions, one a half hour and the rest 45 minutes, we didn't have much time. I made sure that the emphasis in the first three sessions was on play to get them interested and involved. Then I added cards on the table, and looks at opening, responding, and taking tricks. On the last day, I also provided a list of websites useful to new players: ACBL.org, ABTA.org, Fifth Chair, Baron Barclay, as well as my own e-mail address in case they had questions. You will find that many of these cruise clients are quite computer savvy. They lit up at the idea of ACBL's free "Learn to Play Bridge" program. Next time I go, I will take along a copy of this program, offering it to the computer department so clients can use it aboard ship and download it to discs to take home with them.

You must be tactful in dealing with the convention questions of cruise clients. Many of them are just learning about this "new" material, and they are cynical about adapting to new methods. In truth, conventions are useful on only a small percentage of all deals, and it is irresponsible to treat them as more important than the basic skills of describing hands and counting. We should all remember the proverb, "Give a man a fish (a specific convention) and you feed him for a day (a hand). Teach him to fish (to think) and you feed him for life."



by Lynn Berg



Continuing Education

Continued from page 1

it or eat two dinners!

There are few opportunities for bridge teachers to continue their educations and the ABTA Convention offers three and a half days of fun and education — a chance to see old friends, hear what's new in your field, and polish up your bridge game. When the Washington Convention was over, I found myself infused with new energy and excitement and I heartily recommend this experience to each and every one of you. Why not plan now to attend next year in Long Beach?

For more information, contact Pat Harrington at abta@juno.com

**Be a part of
Bridge Week 2003**

See inside!

B ♦ R ♦ I ♦ D ♦ G ♦ E ♦ T ♦ E ♦ A ♦ C ♦ H ♦ E ♦ R

Seminars

Phoenix 2002 Fall NABC

(More details on the seminars can be found at www.acbl.org)

**Saturday, Sunday & Monday,
Nov. 30, Dec. 1 & Dec. 2**

TEACHER ACCREDITATION PROGRAM
(TAP) (Retake for **FREE**)

Sunday, December 1

BRIDGE TEACHERS AND BRIDGE
CRUISES
AUDREY GRANT BRIDGE FESTIVAL*
ACCREDITED TEACHERS DUTCH TREAT
SOCIAL



Monday, December 2

GET ONLINE WITH BRIDGEBASE.COM

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday – December 3, 4 & 5

CLUB DIRECTORS' CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE

Tuesday: Ruling the Game **Wednesday:** ACBLscore,

Thursday: The Proprieties

Tuesday, December 3

TEACHING ONLINE DEMO

Wednesday, December 4

ACBL UNIT GROWTH PROGRAM SEMINAR

* Also on Tues. Dec 3 & Thurs. Dec 5

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